

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A wavelength tunable light source comprising:

a semiconductor laser in which one of end surfaces is

5 applied an anti-reflection film;

a lens;

a wavelength selection portion including a diffraction

grating and a mirror; and

a motor,

0 wherein a light beam is emitted from the one of end

surfaces;

the lens collimates the light beam;

the wavelength selection portion selects a light beam  
having desired wavelength from the collimated light beam to

15 return the selected light beam to the semiconductor laser so  
that laser oscillation occurs;

a center of rotation of the mirror is provided in a  
position where mode hopping is suppressed when a wavelength in  
the laser oscillation is tuned, and

20 rotation of the mirror is driven by a direct drive system  
by using the motor having a rotation shaft in the center of  
rotation of the mirror.

2. The wavelength tunable light source according to  
claim 1, further comprising an optical branching device  
provided between the semiconductor laser and the diffraction  
5 grating for taking out a part of the selected light beam, wherein  
the light beam taken out by the optical branching device is used  
as an output light beam.

3. The wavelength tunable light source according to  
claim 1, further comprising:  
a rotary arm connected to the rotation shaft of the motor  
and having a forward end portion to which the mirror is attached;  
and  
a rotation quantity detecting unit for detecting a  
15 quantity of rotation of the rotary arm.

4. The wavelength tunable light source according to  
claim 1, wherein the motor is a servo-motor containing an  
encoder.

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5. The wavelength tunable light source according to  
claim 1, wherein the motor is a voice coil motor having torque  
only in a rotation range which is set in advance.

6. The wavelength tunable light source according to  
claim 3, wherein wavelength information in wavelength scanning  
is estimated on a basis of an output signal from the rotation  
5 quantity detecting unit.

7. The wavelength tunable light source according to  
Claim 4, wherein wavelength information in wavelength scanning  
is estimated on a basis of an output signal from the encoder.